

Association of Cleveland Fire Fighters

Francis X. Lally Jr.
President
Thomas M. Lally
1st Vice President
Frank M. Szabo
2nd Vice President
Joseph A. Konys
Secretary
Samuel DeVito
Treasurer



IAFF LOCAL 93
3311 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 252-5900 Fax: (216) 252-5966
www.iafflocal93.org



Dennis E. Corrigan
Trustee
Pension & Benefits Coordinator
Brian J. Webb
Trustee
Owen Donelon
Trustee
Kevin J. Kelley
EAP

The newest members of the Cleveland Division of Fire graduated from the Fire Training Academy last Friday and, beginning this week, have started their on-the-job training as Fourth-Grade Firefighters in companies throughout the City.

Among this new class of cadets is Lauren Phillips, the first female firefighter to begin her career on a line company in the CFD since 1987. Local 93 welcomes all of these new members into our ranks and the proud ranks of professional firefighters worldwide. We hope they all have long and successful careers.

Members of the Cleveland City Council Safety Committee have repeatedly emphasized a commitment to ensure the Division of Fire more accurately reflects the diversity of the City we serve. The addition of the first woman on the force in 30 years is only one of many likely changes to our ranks in coming years. Unfortunately, though the Chief of the Division seems to relish the optics of a diverse, progressive fire department, he lacks the necessary commitment to providing resources to guarantee the changes brought about will be successful.

Anticipating prospective changes in the make-up of the department, Local 93 Human Relations Committee member Myran Jackson and I approached Chief Angelo Calvillo early last summer with an offer to introduce a Diversity Training Program through the IAFF to help make sure that the path to change for all our members, new and old, would be a smooth one. The program has been introduced successfully in multiple large cities around the country, is tailored to the cultural and ethnic make-up of each city, and is offered free of charge on a schedule of the city's choice. The Chief turned us down.

Any honest reckoning with history would force us to consider that the Division of Fire has fallen short in the past when it comes to dealing with changes within our ranks. Programs like the one offered by the IAFF would only help to improve that record. As President of Local 93, it is my responsibility to represent all of our members and to welcome them into the union as equals. Importantly, it is also the duty of the union to make sure that our members have the proper tools and training to meet the challenges they encounter in their work. The Chief's rejection of this training is only one example in a recurring pattern of rejecting collaborative proposals for the betterment of both the Fire Administration and our members.

Local 93 would like to go on the record as an organization that accepts the challenge of continuous changes in the workplace and attempts to be proactive in encouraging all members to work toward making ours a better department and a better union. We remain committed to those efforts with or without the help of the Chief.

Francis Lally,
President, IAFF Local 93